

# THE DEATH OF U.S. SENATOR CHARLES H. PERCY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who served Illinois, our country, and people from other nations around the world for decades before his death this weekend at age 91. That man is Senator Charles H. Percy of Illinois.

Already, his life, legend, and list of accomplishments as a Senator, a statesman, and a larger-than-life political figure are well documented. Others have articulated these things far better than I could today, and I am confident that history will record them well.

But, Mr. Speaker, what I wish to convey today are the warm and wonderful stories and the testimonies about Chuck Percy that have only come to me from those who knew him and loved him and from those whose views and sentiments I hold in the highest regard. Their stories are not always well suited for publication or for statements on the House or Senate floor; but they are funny, warm, endearing, and genuine. They reflect the incredible love of life, humanity, and humor that made working for or with Senator Percy so incomparable. These volunteers, former Members, and political leaders cannot address the House about him today; but I can, and it is my honor to do so.

They are some of the finest leaders of Illinois today, like State Comptroller Judy Baar Topinka, who launched her first campaign for office years ago after serving as a Percy campaign coordinator. They are State Treasurer Dan Rutherford and U.S. Senator MARK KIRK, who served on the Youth for Percy brigade. They are former Congresswoman and U.S. Labor Secretary Lynn Martin, whose very first campaign as a volunteer was to help elect Chuck Percy. Then you've just heard from Representative DAVE DREIER on his reflections of his being with Chuck Percy.

If you talk to them, they will say that his enthusiasm and commitment to making a better State, country, and world are what motivated them to answer the call and launch their own political careers. His energy and enthusiasm, his openness to differing views, and his passion for improvement were infectious. They will tell you of a dark moment of loss or sadness or disappointment in their lives when he was there for them with a loving phone call or note. He was, in a word, an inspiration to all of them.

They are former Illinois Governors Jim Thompson and Jim Edgar, whose natural talents thrived under Chuck Percy's guidance and inspiration. He saw in them the makings of outstanding leaders, and they succeeded in their own rights. He never looked over his shoulder, worrying about those who might challenge his own leadership. He embraced them, encouraged them, and

made their success his success. Unlike others in politics today, his generosity to others was boundless and without the slightest hint of envy or competitiveness. With Chuck Percy, there was no zero sum; there were only pluses for everyone.

They also are the other leaders outside of Illinois, like the former HUD Secretary and USTR, Ambassador Carla Hills, who first headed Percy's Alliance to Save Energy in the 1970s when it became clear to Percy that our reliance on foreign oil was unsustainable.

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They are former Senator Fred Thompson, in whom Percy saw a brilliant prosecutor and future star of the Senate. They are those who went on to become leaders in their own countries, like the late Prime Minister of India, Rajiv Gandhi and President of Lebanon Rafic Hariri, both of whom strove for peace and tragically were cut down by assassination.

They are Federal district and appellate judges and a Supreme Court Justice, whose service to our country might never have been possible were it not for the fact that Chuck Percy believed in them and believed that the cronyism and corruption in judicial selection must end. He saw in them a commitment to the law, the Constitution, and justice, and with them helped to transform the Illinois bar from one of the most corrupt in the country to one of the most respected.

Last but not least, there are thousands of staff members and volunteers whose lives were forever changed and guided by this dear man whom they referred to simply as "CHP" or "The Senator." They are a formidable network of outstanding individuals who are as devoted to him as they are to each other and to public service. Each of them has gone on to do good things because of the confidence that he inspired in them and his belief that everything is possible if only you want to work hard enough for it.

They are my constituents and volunteers. They are my chief of staff, Kathy Lydon, and chief of volunteers, Carolyn Stillman, and many others and all the outstanding people that I have met through their fellowship. They are hundreds of Illinois and Washington businessmen, lawyers, teachers, homemakers, and, yes, even reporters whose lives were forever changed by this very special man.

To a one, they will say, "There is no one, no one quite like Chuck Percy."

So today, Mr. Speaker, I want to say to them and to the Percy family, Loraine, Sharon, and Senator JAY ROCKEFELLER, Roger and Penny, Gail and Wade, Mark and Leslee, and all of their wonderful children, grandchildren, and families, our thoughts and prayers are with you. We thank you for sharing this wonderful man with us, with the people of Illinois, America, and the world.

# HONORING CASSANDRA LLOYD WARD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to pay tribute to some great Americans. I want to join my colleague from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) in recognizing the extraordinary life and work of Senator Charles Percy. He will certainly be missed. Also, I want to extend condolences to the Mondale and Kennedy families, who also lost a daughter this weekend at the young age of 51.

But, Mr. Speaker, I have come to the well today to pay tribute to another great American, to a friend in North Carolina who has lost a long but courageous battle to breast cancer at the age of 51. Mrs. Cassandra Lloyd Ward was the daughter of Johnnie and Mary Lloyd of Williamston, North Carolina. She was also the wife of Mr. Everett B. Ward. For 29 long years, they were married. Everett is a well-respected public servant in North Carolina with our State Department of Transportation.

Cassandra was a career educator in Wake County, North Carolina. Many of you will recognize that as our capital city of Raleigh. She worked for many years in the Wake County Public Schools. The epitome of educational excellence, Cassandra touched the lives of countless individuals who have now become productive citizens in our communities across America.

Cassandra was employed by the Wake County Public School System beginning with Youngsville Elementary, Henry Adams Elementary, Dillard Drive Elementary, and, finally, Forest Pines Elementary School. She was a lifelong member of the North Carolina Association of Educators.

Cassandra Ward, Mr. Speaker, was a graduate of Williamston High School in Martin County, North Carolina, also a graduate of historic St. Augustine's College in our capital city of Raleigh, which is an HBCU, a historically black college there in the Raleigh community.

As a member of Davie Street Presbyterian Church in Raleigh, Cassandra was a church leader, not only a member of the Presbyterian Church, but she was also a deacon in the church. She advocated that the church serve the least of these in our society. She was a member of a great sorority, the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. In that capacity, as a member of the Alpha Theta Omega Chapter, she served and chaired many committees, particularly the Black Family/Black Heritage; Health, Social and Sisterly Relations; Salvation Army; and Christmas Stocking Stuffing committees. Those were a lot of committees.

And, Mr. Speaker, she was a very active individual. She also found time to be associated with the Gamma Sigma Boule of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity. She

was what was referred to as an archousa. It took me a while, Mr. Speaker, to figure out how to pronounce that word, but she was an archousa of Gamma Sigma Boule of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity.

Mr. Speaker, Cassandra Ward leaves a very, very loving family. In addition to her parents and her husband, she leaves three siblings, Johnnie Lloyd, Jr., Jarvis Lloyd, and one loving sister that she was extremely close to, Crystal Lloyd Williams, and her sister-in-law, Felecia Hardy, and her husband, Dr. James Hardy.

She is also survived by other relatives and friends, and especially her very special nieces and nephews: Johnnie Lloyd, III; Alecia Hardy, Jarvis Lloyd and Eboni, Jamie Hardy, Jamecia Hardy, Mary Noel Williams, and Gabrielle Williams. They all comprise the wonderful family of Cassandra Lloyd Ward.

I ask my colleagues today to join with me in honoring the life and work of this great American, Cassandra Lloyd Ward.

#### DON'T ASK DON'T TELL REPEAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, today is a very important day in our fight to achieve full equality for all Americans in the face of prejudices of various sorts. To commemorate, I want to read a very extraordinary document. It is headlined, "Don't Ask Don't Tell Repeal." It's an official communication.

"Today marks the end of 'Don't Ask Don't Tell.' The law is repealed. From this day forward, gay and lesbian soldiers may serve in our Army with the dignity and respect they deserve. Our rules, regulations, and policies reflect the repeal guidance issued by the Department of Defense and will apply uniformly without regard to sexual orientation, which is a personal and private matter.

"For over 236 years, the U.S. Army has been an extraordinary force for good in the world. Our soldiers are the most agile, adaptable, and capable warriors in history—and we are ready for this change.

"Over the last several months, our leaders, soldiers and Department of the Army civilians have discussed, trained, and prepared for this day. The President, the Secretary of Defense, and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs have certified that repeal is consistent with military readiness, effectiveness, unit cohesion, and recruiting and retention. Your professionalism, leadership, and respect for your fellow soldiers will ensure that this effort is successful.

"At the heart of our success is adherence to the Army values. These standards not only infuse every facet of our culture and operations, but also guide us as we adapt to change. Loyalty,

duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage are not mere words to us—they are the very principles by which we live, train, and fight.

"Accordingly, we expect all personnel to follow our values by implementing the repeal fully, fairly, and in accordance with policy guidance. It is the duty of all personnel to treat each other with dignity and respect, while maintaining good order and discipline throughout our ranks. Doing so will help the U.S. Army remain the strength of the Nation."

It is signed by Raymond F. Chandler, III, the Sergeant Major of the Army; Raymond T. Odierno, General, United States Army Chief of Staff; and John M. McHugh, Secretary of the Army and, parenthetically, our former colleague on the Republican side.

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Mr. Speaker, we have a history in this country of prejudice being enacted; and through the efforts of many people, the policy embodying that prejudice can be overcome. And as we debate any single effort to overcome prejudice, we are told that the effect of diminishing that prejudice, the effect of repealing that rule will be chaos, will be disorder, will be social unrest; and it is never true.

Seven years ago, the State I am privileged to represent in this House established same-sex marriage; and there were predictions of doom, predictions that this would be a terribly upsetting factor. None of those predictions have come true. Not a one. As we debated last year the repeal of the unfortunate statute which said that brave and patriotic gay and lesbian and bisexual and transgender members of the armed services would have to lie about who they were, would have to hide who they were or else lose the right to serve their country, a right which some evade but for which they were prepared to fight, we once again heard predictions that this would be disruptive, that it would cause diminution of the ability of our brave men and women to serve their purposes.

Let me predict today, Mr. Speaker, that every one of those prejudices 3 and 4 years from now will be proven as wrong as the predictions that same-sex marriage would be disorganizing. We will now see gay men and lesbians serving this country openly and proudly as they have been serving this country proudly, but unfortunately not openly, for some time. I hope people are making note of the predictions that were made on the floor of this House, in the Senate, and in the country about the negative consequences of "don't ask don't tell," because they will soon be shown to have been wholly false.

Finally, I want to commend Sergeant Major Chandler, General Odierno, and Secretary McHugh. This is a very profound and important document. They are acting in the highest traditions of their constitutional duty, of patriot-

ism, and of respect for our constitutional principles. I welcome this statement, and I believe it is going to be proven to be a harbinger of a situation in which the full integration of gay and lesbian and bisexual and transgender members of the military goes forward with no negative consequences, with all of the positive consequences that come from respecting people and abolishing prejudice.

#### REMEMBERING SENATOR CHARLES PERCY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to pay tribute to a great American who lived in the State of Illinois, who represented it and the country well, Senator Charles Percy.

I recall that when Senator Percy was elected, I was a young schoolteacher, community activist. I also was an individual who interacted with lots of people who were very cynical about government, politics, whether or not there was any potential for change. So we had an opportunity to see in action one of the most forceful individuals in public life, one that you didn't describe necessarily as a Democrat or a Republican. You didn't characterize him as a conservative or a liberal. You really thought of Senator Percy as simply a good, solid United States Senator who represented well not only his constituents, but who provided leadership for the Nation and for the country.

I think I learned at that time the meaning of town hall meetings because Senator Percy would hold those; and although he was a Republican by political stripe—and many of the people where I lived and interacted with were Democrats in terms of political stripe—we just would turn out at Senator Percy's town halls to know what was taking place, what was going on, what was happening. I personally owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to him for helping to shape my own political philosophy, some of my political ideology, some of the things that I dream about and hope for and work towards.

And so I extend condolences to his family, wish them well, and know that America is a better place because Chuck Percy served in the United States Senate and served all of America.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 25 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.